



Critical Days of Summer



Motorcycle Safety



***Brought to you by:
The Naval Safety Center***





Statistics



- ★ Between 2000-2004, 57 Sailors and Marines died in motorcycle-related accidents during the Critical Days of Summer.
- ★ Of those, at least 14 were not wearing a helmet.
- ★ Alcohol was involved in at least 11 of the deaths.



Safety Tips



- ★ Don't assume a driver can see you. Wear helmets with retro-reflective materials; bright, contrasting clothing; fluorescent vests.
- ★ Keep your headlight on at all times.
- ★ Be aware of blind spots. If you can't see a driver's face in the rear-view mirror, he can't see you, either.
- ★ Use your turn signals and don't make any sudden moves.
- ★ The most likely situations for a wreck:
 - An oncoming car turning left in front of you.
 - A driver changing lanes or turning when you are in his blind spot.
 - Road hazards (potholes, standing water, railroad tracks) that make drivers do something sudden or unexpected.



Mishap Summaries



★ Two Sailors died in separate accidents two days apart when vehicles turned into their paths. They were wearing all the right equipment.



★ A Marine crossed center line, hit SUV, then was hit by another motorcycle.

★ A Seaman on motorcycle collided head-on with PMV. No helmet.



★ A Marine riding motorcycle at high speed lost control and hit tree.



Use The Right Equipment



- ★ DOT-approved helmet
- ★ Goggles or face shield
- ★ Sturdy footwear



- ★ Appropriate clothing (brightly-colored for day-time riding; reflective vest for night-time riding)
- ★ Gloves



- ★ Long sleeve shirt
- ★ Long pants



Scenarios



- ★ You just got off of work late and you're exhausted. It's dusk and will be dark in a half-hour. Traffic is backed up on your normal route, so you decide to take an alternate route home through mostly suburban streets. What kind of hazards should you expect to face and how can you reduce your chances of being in an accident?



Scenario Discussion Points



★ Impatient drivers who are also tired and in a rush to get home.



★ Increase your chances of not having an accident by keeping a safe distance from other vehicles and continuously scanning the roadway for unexpected hazards. Be ready to stop safely or take evasive action if necessary. If traffic is real bad, consider stopping somewhere for a rest and cup of coffee until rush hour traffic subsides.





Myth Busters



★ Myth: A helmet will effect my peripheral vision. I might not see a hazard in time to avoid it.



★ Busted: Unless your eyes are in the wrong spot on your head or your visor is covered with mud, helmets don't restrict vision. They provide at least 210° of peripheral vision. Normal peripheral vision is between 200° and 220°. Helmets are awful handy, too, when you get hit from behind ... someplace you won't be looking anyways, even with your helmet off.





FAQs



- ★ What instruction covers motorcycle safety?
 - OPNAVINST 5100.12G and DoD 6055.4.
- ★ Do I have to attend a motorcycle safety course to ride on base?
 - Yes. You must attend a Motorcycle Safety Foundation approved safety course in order to ride your motorcycle on or off base.





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